

**APPROVED AS AMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**TOWN OF DARIEN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 6, 2006**

**ATTENDANCE:** First Selectwoman Evonne Klein; Kevin Newman;  
Linda Santarella; Barbara Thorne; Susan Young

**STAFF:** John Crary, Administrative Officer

**CALL TO ORDER**

First Selectwoman Klein called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from the public.

**FIRST SELECTWOMAN'S REPORT**

The First Selectwoman reported that this weekend she attended an outstanding performance, *Into the Woods*, and she commended the cast.

She reported that the Farmers Market will be relocating to the Mechanics Street Lot, which is closer to Goodwives, and stated that she should be hearing from P&Z on the process.

She reported that Aquarion Water was purchased by an Australian firm, MacQuarie Investment Bank. She stated that the company and employees feel positive about this change as MacQuarie has a solid track record of building infrastructure all over the world.

The First Selectwoman reported that last week she, Kathy Hammell, Martha Banks, and Jim Cameron met with Senator Lieberman's staff in Hartford and it was a very productive meeting. Some of the issues discussed were:

- Funding for Education and Special Education
- Transportation Funding
- Federal Energy Plan
- Homeland Security Funding

- Senior Issues
- Cost of Health Care

Also discussed were other issues such as unfunded mandates, special task forces and the implications of reimbursement. She stated that, of all of the Towns that met with the staff, they were the most prepared.

She reported that the Senior Center Task Force will be on the March 20<sup>th</sup> agenda.

Pertaining to the Broadwater LNG Project, the First Selectwoman reported that Governor Rell sent a letter to FERC opposing this project. At the MPO meeting on Friday it was voted to send a letter citing a procedural flaw in the process and requesting a 30 day extension to submit more testimony. Testimony has been lost.

Regarding the CT Rail Governance Study, she reported that the MPO has approved sending a second letter to CDOT expressing the Town's concerns with respect to this study. They include not supporting the centralized ownership, control and operation of the rails system. Overall the Town feels that the costs associated with such an acquisition would outweigh any benefits and recommends development of uniform administrative standards and performance benchmarks for the rail system.

She reported that CDOT is not considering any I-95 ramp closures at this time.

The First Selectwoman reported that Cablevision has filed a renewal for their franchise and Soundview has filed for intervention status on this docket to take over access in area nine. The towns have all received grant money which has totaled \$100,000 region wide to provide government access channels and the funding will all disappear.

She reported that SWRPA has formed an Affordable Housing Committee whose purpose is to survey the housing conditions in the region. The goal is to produce a report that addresses a number of issues regarding affordable housing through 2016. The Special Session Act established a Housing Trust Fund to encourage development, rehabilitation and preservation of affordable housing in CT. It included issuance of up to \$100M in bonds over 5 fiscal years. There has been a state focus to develop more affordable housing in the region.

Following up on Allen O'Neill funding, the First Selectwoman reported that she spoke to Peter Hovell today. He informed her that the Board of Finance will not be voting on the funding until their March 23rd meeting. He expressed a belief that the Commission may not need \$50,000 and he believed the funds they will actually spend over the next 4 months will be in the \$30 – 35,000 range. Ms. Klein reported that Anne Lynn and Susan Kostin are preparing a spreadsheet of their anticipated costs for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The First Selectwoman reported that there will be a Blueprint to Building event sponsored by the Affordable Housing Action Collaborative on 3/29 from 9-1.

## **HOT TOPICS**

The First Selectwoman reported that she met with a variety of community members who expressed concerns on a number of different issues:

1. myspace.com
2. the new dump fees for pick up trucks – especially senior citizens
3. the development at 40 Noroton Avenue
4. Planning and Zoning concerns

She reported that she met with representatives from Halliday and Fitzgerald Inc., the consulting firm conducting the study of CT rest areas, to discuss the study. She noted that Rich Jacobson attended the meeting as well and they expressed concerns regarding the pollution from the site.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Mr. Crary reported that he had a meeting with representatives of the Town's insurance broker to review all insurance policies. He stated that he gathered a claim history in order to have the health insurance policy go out to bid. He reported that they will have another meeting to define the plans in the next few months and they were very confident and hopeful that there would be financial savings along with improved services.

## **REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE HEALTH DISTRICT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Susan Young reported that the next and second meeting of the Committee is March 9<sup>th</sup> in New Canaan at 7:30 p.m. She stated that there will be a presentation by a current Health District Director and one of the topics will be the services that are provided by a health district and how they differ from an independent district. There will also be a discussion of a draft of by-laws that would govern the health district. Ms. Young stated that the comments that she has heard from the public so far were how would this partnership contribute to realization, the loss of independence in making decisions about health issues, and would the new system be as thorough as an independent one, particularly in regard to restaurant inspections. On the plus side, she said that people hoped that the district would take on septic system inspections, that shared services will equal better service, that there will be consistent service provided, and that it would be less expensive to each town. She stated that if there were economies of scale this should be a savings for taxpayers and that there was also a potential for receiving grants. Ms. Young reported that there will be a public hearing in May.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **a) Discuss and Take Action on the Request from DRI to schedule a “Father’s Day Downtown Car Show” for June 18<sup>th</sup>**

Deb Randall, DRI Promotion Committee Chairperson, and George McKnight were present. Ms. Randall reported that the DRI would like to hold an event downtown on Father’s Day between 11 AM and 4 PM and it would be a car show. She stated that they would like to use three municipal lots: Squab Lane, Center and Old Kings Highway S. and Mechanic Street and they would hire police staff for the day to be located at busy traffic areas and pedestrian crossings.

**\*\* MS. THORNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM DRI TO SCHEDULE A FATHER’S DAY DOWNTOWN CAR SHOW FOR JUNE 18, 2006.**

**\*\* MS. SANTARELLA SECONDED.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **b) Discuss and Take Action on the Request of the ITP Foundation to hold a Triathlon on September 30<sup>th</sup>**

Michael McGuire, Jr., and Deborah Brosy of the ITP Foundation and Capt. Gary Pavia were present. Ms. Santarella asked if the plan was to use the same route as last year. Mr. McGuire replied that it was with small modifications. Capt. Pavia stated that it was great to work the ITP last year, however there were several concerns about Saturday traffic, soccer games going on and the safety issues of the cyclists and the vehicles. He stated that the biggest problem was that vehicles were stopped for fifteen minutes and he felt it would be difficult to find police personnel to staff it because of last year’s problems. Last year 10 officers were hired. Discussion took place about possibly holding the race on a Sunday or if there was a better route. Mr. McGuire stated that he would do whatever was necessary. Ms. Klein stated that she received few complaints and that she supported the event and that they needed to find a way to make it work. She suggested that Capt. Pavia meet with the Officers that worked the event and also get together with Mr. McGuire to look at different routes. Mr. Newman stated that he supported the triathlon. Ms. Santarella agreed that they needed to find a way to do it. The First Selectwoman stated that this item would be placed on an upcoming agenda for a vote.

### **c) Discuss and Take Action on acceptance of a gift from the Darien Garden Club to landscape the front of Town Hall.**

Ms. Klein stated that the total donation was \$9,965.00 and they were also willing to put in irrigation that would cost \$1,800. Ms. Thorne asked how it would fit in with the Monuments and Ceremonies project and Ms. Klein replied that it would complement it. Ms. Klein stated that she was grateful to the Darien Garden Club for their generous

contribution to the Town.

- \*\* MS. YOUNG MOVED TO ACCEPT A GIFT FROM THE DARIEN GARDEN CLUB TO LANDSCAPE THE FRONT OF TOWN HALL.**
- \*\* MS. THORNE SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**c) Discuss and Take Action on Town policy regarding sidewalks outside of the downtown area – Craig Danna, 22 Heights Road letter**

It was discussed that this was a project outside of the downtown area. Ms. Santarella commented that she was not sure that it was the Town's responsibility to do this and questioned how many other areas of Town would they be asked to do and what would be the cost implications. It was discussed that this request has been around since 1990. Ms. Thorne commented that they should follow what P&Z stipulates and she did not feel the Town had a financial obligation at this point. Ms. Santarella stated that she would like to see a proposal. Mr. Newman agreed with everyone and stated that they agreed to downtown revitalization and that this would set a precedent for the future.

Ms. Klein asked for a motion to take action on this item. It failed for lack of a motion.

**d) Discuss and Take Action on request by Ian and Tracy King of 78 Camp Ave. to restore town property that they disturbed**

- \*\* MS. THORNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST BY IAN AND TRACY KING OF 78 CAMP AVENUE TO RESTORE TOWN PROPERTY THAT THEY DISTURBED.**
- \*\* MS. YOUNG SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**e) Schedule a Public Hearing on establishing new Refuse Disposal Fees**

The First Selectwoman reported that the Public Hearing on establishing new Refuse Disposal Fees will be held on Monday, April 3, 2006.

**f) Discuss Draft Statement on Affordable Housing**

Ms. Young stated that they had so much on their plate and questioned whether they should take on another committee. Mr. Newman stated that he would not vote on this until he sees what happens with Allen O'Neill and the RTM and he was hopeful it would not be a long process. He stated that he continued to believe in this. Ms. Thorne stated that she would like to see it move forward and she saw Allen O'Neill as complimentary to looking at other parts in Town.

Ms. Klein stated that they spent a number of weeks discussing the Board's priorities and best practices and everyone agreed with them. She stated that she found it extremely disappointing and felt that this was necessary. She stated that the Town will be sorely behind by not forming an Advisory Committee and that it would form a dialogue in the community and help develop a plan. Ms. Santarella stated that she would like to wait and see the RTM's input. Ms. Klein stated that the RTM is not looking at the whole thing and this was broadbased and not site specific. She said that the Board voted to establish an affordable housing advisory committee in ongoing governing processes. Mr. Newman stated that he was very supportive of it from the beginning and that Allen O'Neill did not feel waiting another 45 days would be terrible. It was also not one of the Board's high priorities. Ms. Klein disagreed that they did not rush into it because there have been five drafts made to the statement to include everyone's comments. She stated that it was unfortunate that the Board could not take action and it showed a lack of leadership to move it forward. Ms. Santarella stated that they all approved affordable housing but they were just not approving it tonight. Ms. Klein stated that she was frustrated that this was not moving forward. Mr. Newman commented that they could put it on the agenda to discuss the next time. The Board agreed that the First Selectwoman will put this on a sooner agenda than May.

#### **AGENDA REVIEW**

Ms. Klein stated that the Senior Center Task Force will be on the March 20<sup>th</sup> agenda.

#### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- **Executive Session meeting of January 17, 2006**

**\*\* MS. SANTARELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING OF JANUARY 17, 2006.**

**\*\* MS. YOUNG SECONDED.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- **Special Meeting of January 30, 2006**

The following changes were made to the minutes:

Pg. 3: First paragraph: First sentence: change to: ..... and their primary task used to be to examine septic system water and food services in restaurants.

**\*\* MS. SANTARELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL MEETING OF JANUARY 30, 2006 AS AMENDED.**

**\*\* MS. THORNE SECONDED.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- **Executive Session meeting of January 30, 2006**

- \*\* **MS. SANTARELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING OF JANUARY 30, 2006.**
- \*\* **MS. THORNE SECONDED.**
- \*\* **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- **Regular meeting of February 6, 2006**

The following changes were made to the minutes:

Pg. 4: Fourth sentence: Change to: She stated that her only concern was that someone should not be designated to serve ....

Pg. 4: Thirteenth sentence: Ms. Young stated that the priority should be to seek out alternative housing because it was less costly.

Pg. 5: First paragraph: Fourth sentence: Change to Mr. Curtis.

Pg. 5: First paragraph: Seventh sentence: Ms. Young commented that the report on the Hollow Tree property sounded more positive because two facilities could be built on that site.

Pg. 5: Second paragraph: Fourth sentence: Change to: Mr. Newman added that it was important to know the historical usage and demographics of the facility of the last few years before they determine to go forward.

Pg. 6: Third paragraph: Seventh sentence: She said that it was determined that questions were not answered sufficiently.

- \*\* **MS. THORNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 6, 2006 AS AMENDED.**
- \*\* **MS. YOUNG SECONDED.**
- \*\* **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- **Executive Session meeting of February 6, 2006**

- \*\* **MS. SANTARELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 6, 2006.**
- \*\* **MS. THORNE SECONDED.**
- \*\* **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

- March 8, 2006 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- March 14, 2006 Board of Finance Public Hearing on Budget
- March 20, 2006 RTM Meeting at 8:15 p.m.
- March 20, 2006 Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting at 5:30 p.m.
- March 21, 2006 Planning & Zoning General Meeting at 8:00 p.m.
- April 3, 2006 Joint Town Department Heads Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
- April 3, 2006 Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting immediately  
Following Department Heads meeting

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

(A two-thirds majority vote is required to add an item to the agenda)

- \*\* MS. SANTARELLA MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:45 PM.**
- \*\* MS. YOUNG SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna DeVito  
Telesco Secretarial Services